

Message Text

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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. IF THE BUNDESTAG REJECTS THE GIEREK-SCHMIDT ACCORD...

AMBASSADOR DAVIES PLACES CREDENCE IN THE VIEWS OF A WELL-
CONNECTED POLISH JOURNALIST THAT SHOULD THE BUNDESTAG FAIL
TO RATIFY THE GIEREK-SCHMIDT AGREEMENT:

--GIEREK WILL BE IN TROUBLE DOMESTICALLY, AS THE SET-
BACK WOULD PROVIDE A FOCAL POINT FOR THE DISPARATE
GROUPS HOSTILE TO HIM.

--EAST-WEST DIALOGUE WILL BE HURT, AS A POLISH DIPLO-
MATIC OFFENSIVE AIMED AT THE FRENCH--AND AGAINST THE
FRG--WILL FOLLOW.

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THE AMBASSADOR HOPES THAT THE US IS ALREADY USING ITS

INFLUENCE WITH CDU-CSU LEADERS IN AN EFFORT TO BOOST THE
CHANCES OF RATIFICATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) WARSAW 843
(LIMDIS), 2/10.)

2. ITALY: DC ECONOMIC PLAN LOOKS GOOD

EMBASSY ROME GIVES FAIRLY HIGH MARKS TO ITALY'S NEW ECO-
NOMIC PROGRAM, COMMENTING THAT PSI INFLUENCE SHOWS CLEARLY
IN THE INCOMES POLICY OF FREEZING PAY RAISES FOR HIGH-
SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND FORCING THOSE EMPLOYEES TO INVEST
IN GOVERNMENT NOTES. THE THREE-PRONGED ATTACK ON THE COUN-
TRY'S ECONOMIC WOES INCLUDES:

--FORCING UP INTEREST RATES MODERATELY TO SLOW THE
FLIGHT OF CAPITAL WITHOUT BLIGHTING INCIPIENT ECO-
NOMIC RECOVERY;

--IMPOSING A 75 PERCENT EXCESS PROFITS TAX AS AN
ALTERNATIVE TO A PRICE FREEZE, WHICH THE ITALIANS
CONSIDER UNWORKABLE; AND

--ENDING GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION TO SUPPORT THE LIRA,
WHICH WILL HELP THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BUT HURT THE
CONSUMER, WHO EATS IMPORTED FOOD AND SNARLS TRAFFIC
WITH IMPORTED GASOLINE.

THE EMBASSY CAUTIONS, HOWEVER, THAT THE EVENTUAL FATE OF
THE DC ECONOMIC PROGRAM REMAINS UNCLEAR AT THIS STAGE.
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ROME 2256, 2/10.)

3. YEMEN: ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN SOVIET AID

YAR CHIEF OF STAFF GHASHMI TOLD CHARGE RANSOM THAT,
ALTHOUGH THE SOVIET SHIPMENT OF MIG-21'S AND T-54 TANKS
HAD ARRIVED, THE SOVIETS REACTING TO THE VISIT OF A SAUDI
MILITARY MISSION THE PREVIOUS WEEK, REFUSED TO OFFLOAD IT.
NOTING GHASHMI'S ELATION WITH US SAUDI PLANS TO SUPPLY
MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING, THE EMBASSY:

--SURMISES THAT THE YAR AGREED TO SOVIET DELIVERIES AT
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THE DEPTH OF THEIR CRISIS WITH THE SAUDIS, BUT WHEN
FENCES WERE MENDED EITHER HAMDI OR THE SOVIETS DECIDED
TO STOP THE SHIPMENTS; AND

--BELIEVES THAT, THOUGH FUTURE DELIVERIES OF SOVIET
SUPPLIES REMAIN A POSSIBILITY, THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN
PARTLY CHECKED.

EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION: WE SHOULD RAISE THE ISSUE OF ASSISTANCE WITH THE SAUDIS IN CONNECTION WITH SULTAN'S FORTHCOMING TRIP TO YEMEN. WITH SOVIET DELIVERIES UNDERWAY, WE NEED TO SHOW SOME MOVEMENT. (SECRET) SANA 477, 2/11.)

4. ANGOLA: GABON RECOGNIZES MPLA

EMBASSY PARIS REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT BONGO ANNOUNCED RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA FEBRUARY 11, AND ACCORDING TO A QUAI OFFICIAL, THE IVORY COAST IS ON THE VERGE OF DOING THE SAME. THE OFFICIAL PREDICTED THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER FRAPHONE COUNTRIES WILL FOLLOW SUIT, BUT THE ATTITUDES OF ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE REMAIN CRUCIAL. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 4213, 2/11.)

5. PERPETUATING THE FIGHT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

EMBASSY MAPUTO (FORMERLY LOURENCO MARQUES) REPORTS THAT PRESIDENTS KAUNDA, MACHEL, NYERERE, AND KHAMA (BOTSWANA) ON FEBRUARY 7 FINISHED TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS WHICH WERE PROBABLY CONVENED TO DISCUSS RESUMPTION OF FULL-SCALE GUERRILLA WARFARE IN RHODESIA. MOZAMBIQUE LEADERS ARE KNOWN TO FAVOR MILITARY ACTION TO END MINORITY RULE AND HAVE BEEN TRAINING AND ASSISTING ZIMBABWE FORCES. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MAPUTO 132, 2/11.) INGERSOLL

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